

Message Text

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47

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 DPW-01

AID-20 DRC-01 /171 W

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R 111101Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8033

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 1322

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR

SUBJECT: ICCS: NEW POLDEL AMBASSADOR.

REF: (A) WARSAW 1321; (B) STATE 44546

1. DURING OUR THREE-HOUR DINNER MARCH 7, MOST OF MY ATTENTION WAS DIRECTED TOWARDS SPASOWSKI AND KULAGA, FIJALKOWSKI'S SENIORS, WHO DID MOST OF THE TALKING ON THE POLISH SIDE. I HAD A CHANCE TO ASK FIJALKOWSKI A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS BACKGROUND AND THE FACTS ELICITED ARE GIVEN IN PARA 2. MY FIRST IMPRESSION OF FIJALKWOSKI IS IN PARA 3.

2. A. REF B PARA 3. I ASKED FIJALKOWSKI IF HE HAD SERVED IN VIETNAM BEFORE HIS ASSIGNMENT TO LAOS. HE SAID HE HAD NOT AND SUMMARIZED HIS SERVICE IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA AS CONSISTING OF HIS ASSIGNMENT IN LAOS PLUS THE SIX WEEKS HE SPENT IN EARLY 1973 WITH THE ICCS IN SAIGON DURING ITS FORMATION.

B. REF B PARA 5. I ASKED FIJALKOWSKI WHETHER HIS FAMILY WOULD BE ACCOMPANYING HIM OR STAYING IN WARSAW.

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HE SAID THAT HIS WIFE WOULD REMAIN IN WARSAW, SINCE SHE

WORKS AS AN OPERA-SINGER, BUT HE HOPED THAT SHE WOULD BE ABLE TO COME TO SAIGON TO SPEND A FEW WEEKS WITH HIM FROM TIME TO TIME. IN THIS CONNECTON, KULAGA ADVISED HIM TO HAVE THE POLDEL AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE RENOVATED, IF HE COULD FIND THE FUNDS, ADDING THAT IT WAS NOT NOW IN SUCH SHAPE AS FITTINGLY TO HOUSE A WIFE. FIJALKOWSKI SAID THAT HE HAS ONLY ONE CHILD, A TWENTY-YEAR-OLD BOY. FIJALKOWSKI SAID THE BOY HAS SPENT ONE YEAR STUDYING MATHEMATICS AT WARSAW UNIVERSITY, BUT HAD DROPPED OUT TO FOLLOW HIS MOTHER'S MUSICAL BENT AND IS NOW LEARNING THE CLASSICAL GUITAR. COMMENT; IT WAS NOT COMPLETELY CLEAR WHETHER FIJALKOWSKI'S PRESENT WIFE IS NO. 1 OR NO. 2, BUT I ENDED UP WITH THE STRONG IMPRESSION THAT SHE IS NO. 1, SINCE IT WOULD OTHERWISE BE HARD TO ACCOUNT FOR HIS REFERENCE TO HIS SON'S FOLLOWING HIS MOTHER'S FOOTSTEPS IN MUSIC. FIJALKOWSKI'S MARITAL HISTORY IS A DATUM THAT NEEDS TO BE PINNED DOWN. END COMMENT.

C. FIJALKOWSKI'S ENGLISH IS NOT AT THE HIGH LEVEL OF KULAGA'S , BUT IT IS QUITE GOOD. HE UNDERSTANDS EVERYTHING AND EXPRESSES HIMSELF WITHOUT DIFFICULTY, ALTHOUGH HE OCCASIONALY HAS TO GROPE FOR A WORD AND MAY COME UP WITH A FRENCH SUBSTITUTE. I AM PREPARED TO GUESS THAT, AFTER THREE MONTHS IN SAIGON AND THE CONSTANT NECESSITY OF USING ENGLISH WITH SOME OF HIS ICCS COLLEAGUES AND WITH AMERICAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS, FIJALKWOSKI WILL HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED HIS FLUENCY.

D. FIJALKOWSKI IS LOOKING FORWARD TO PLAYING TENNIS AND TO SWIMMING IN SAIGON.

3. WHILE SPASOWSKI AND KULAGA DOMINATED THE CONVERSATION ON THE POLISH SIDE, FIJALKOWSKI SPOKE UP ON FOUR OR FIVE OCCASIONS. HIS INTERVENTIONS WERE TO THE POINT, WELL EXPRESSED AND COGENTLY REASONED. HE SHOWED PROPER DEFERENCE TO HIS TWO SENIOR COLLEAGUES, BUT DID NOT FAWN UPON THEM. HE OBVIOUSLY HAS A MIND OF HIS OWN AND AN EXPERT GRASP OF THE SUBJECT-MATTER OF THE ICCS AND VIETNAMESE AFFAIRS. SPASOWSKI AND KULAGA CLEARLY RESPECT HIM. ALTHOUGH YOUNGER THAN KULAGA BY SOME FIFTEEN YEARS, HE

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APPEARS TO BE INTELLECTUALLY ON A PAR WITH HIM. THE QUESTIONABLE AREA IS THAT OF EXPERIENCE. BASED ON THIS BRIEF ENCOUNTER, I CONCLUDE THAT THE POLES HAVE COME UP WITH ONE OF THEIR MOST IMPRESSIVE YOUNGER MEN FOR THIS DEMANDING ASSIGNMENT. BUT, I MUST STRESS, THE OCCASION AND THE TIME AVAILABLE ALLOWED ME TO DO NO MORE THAN GAIN A FIRST IMPRESSION.

DAVIES

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